for supply of stores to Defence, sick companies as defined in the "Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985" and which have been declared sick by the competent central/state Government authority, are not eligible for registration.

Opening of Branch Post Offices in Punjab and U.P.

*74. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Branch Post Offices sanctioned and opened district-wise during 1995-96 and 1996-97 in the States of Punjab and U.P.;

(b) the number of Gram Panchayats, district-wise in U.P. and Punjab which do not have Branch Post Offices; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to provide postal facilities in all Gram Panchayats in those States?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The District-wise number of Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices Sanctioned and opened during the year 1995-96 and 1996-97 in the States of Punjab and U.P. is given in Statement-I & II respectively. (See below).

(b) The District-wise number of Gram Panchayats in Punjab and U.P. which do not have Branch Post Offices is given in Statement-III & IV respectively (See below).

(c) Post Offices are opened progressively subject to norm based justification and availability of fund. All villages in the country including Gram Panchayat Villages which have a population of 500 or above are provided the facility of clearance of letter boxes. All Villages in the country are, however, provided the facility of dayly delivery of mail through Extra Departmental Agents.

Statement I

District-wise Number of Extra-Departmental Branch Post Offices Sanctioned and Opened during 1995-96 and 1996-97 in Punjab

Year	Sl. No.	Name of District	Number of Extra-Departmental Branch Post Offices	
			Sanctioned	Opened
1995-96	1.	Jalandhar	1	1
		Total:	1	1
1996-97	1.	Ropar	1	1
	2.	Sangrur	1	1
	3.	Ferozepur	1	1
		Total:	3	3

Statement II

District-wise Number of Extra-Departmental Branch Post Offices Sanctioned and Opened during 1995-96 and 1996-97 in Uttar Pradesh

S.No.	Year	Name of District	Number of Branch Post Office Extra Departmental	
			Sanctioned	Opened
	1995-96	Nil	Nil	Nil
1.	1996-97	Gonda	4	4
2.		Basti	1	1
3.		Pratapgarh	2	2
4.		Sitapur	1	1
5.		Barabanki	5	5
6.		Faizabad	1	1
7.		Raebarelli	1	1
8.		Unnao	1	1
9.		Gorakhpur	2	2
10.		Almora	1	1
11.		Dehradun	1	1
12.		Pauri Garhwal	1	1
13.		Allahabad	2	1
14.		Sultanpur	1	1
15.		Moradabad	1	1
16.		Uttar Kashi	1	1
17.		Bahraich	6	6
18.		Fatehpur	1	1
19.		Sahjahanpur	1	1
20.		Deoria	1	1
21.		Varanasi	1	—
22.		Muzaffarnagar	1	1
23.		Azamgarh	1	—
		Total	38	35

Statement III

District-wise Number of Gram Panchayats without Post Offices in Punjab

S.No.	Name of District	Number of Gram Panchayats without Post Offices
1.	Ludhiana	528
2.	Fatehgarh Sahib	345
3.	Patiala	861
4.	Ropar	643
5.	Sangrur	456

S.No.	Name of District	Number of Gram Panchayats without Post Offices
6.	Amritsar	740
7.	Bhatinda	158
8.	Faridkot	101
9.	Moga	55
10.	Ferozepur	763
11.	Gurdaspur	1206
12.	Hoshiarpur	1039
13.	Kapurthala	379
14.	Mansa	140
15.	Muktsar	105
16.	Nawanshahar	109
17.	Jalandhar	597
	Total :	8225

Statement IV

District-wise Number of Gram Panchayats without Post Offices in Uttar Pradesh

S.No.	Name of District	Number of Gram Panchayats without Post Offices
1.	Bijnore	678
2.	Meerut	390
3.	Muzaffarnagar	412
4.	Chamoli	23
5.	Haridwar	216
6.	Ghaziabad	350
7.	Tehri	229
8.	Saharanpur	601
9.	Uttar Kashi	76
10.	Pauri	63
11.	Dehradun	65
12.	Almora	178
13.	Bareilly	831
14.	Budaun	833
15.	Hardoi	836
16.	Kheri	644
17.	Moradabad	1134
18.	Rampur	456
19.	Nainital	299
20.	Pilibhit	429
21.	Pithoragarh	212
22.	Shahjahanpur	677
23.	Kanpur City	77
24.	Kanpur (Dehat)	720

S.No.	Name of District	Number of Gram Panchayats without Post Offices
25.	Unnao	696
26.	Danda	475
27.	Hamirpur	339
28.	Mahoba	New District
29.	Fatchpur	547
30.	Farrukhabad	669
31.	Azamgarh	1261
32.	Basti	1237
33.	Mau	363
34.	Sidharthnagar	835
35.	Gorakhpur	888
36.	Maharajganj	527
37.	Deoria	747
38.	Padrauna	736
39.	Ballia	481
40.	Gonda	1209
41.	Bahraich	841
42.	Agra	386
43.	Aligarh	851
44.	Bulandshahr	681
45.	Etah	692
46.	Etawah	663
47.	Jhansi	84
48.	Lalitpur	176
49.	Jalaun	217
50.	Mainpuri	286
51.	Firozabad	353
52.	Mathura	390
53.	Allahabad	1375
54.	Pratapgarh	751
55.	Ghazipur	668
56.	Jaunpur	1120
57.	Mirzapur	606
58.	Varanasi	966
59.	Sitapur	971
60.	Raebareli	542
61.	Sultanpur	797
62.	Faizabad	790
63.	Barabanki	782
64.	Lucknow	353
65.	Sonbhadra	325
66.	Bhadoi	383
67.	Ambedkarnagar	New District
68.	Udham Singh Nagar	-do-
	Total :	37497